THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The details of import from China during the last three years are as under:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Principal Commodities	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05
Electronic Goods	3920.29	6344.90	9278.23
Coal, Coke and Briquittes Etc.	12.07	1015.14	3498.36
Organic Chemcials	334.28	2172.60	2720.26
Machry Except Elec & Electronic	510.16	845.01	1903.13
Others Commodities	8735.34	8247.48	13013.82
Total Import From China	13512.15	18625.14	30413.79

The region-wise absorption of items are not documented.

(c) and (d) The overall demand of Chinese items has increased as reflected in the import date given above. The region-wise demand is not maintained.

It is the continuous endeavour of Government to increase the competitive efficiency of Indian industry as well as to initiate countervailing/ anti dumping action in appropriate cases.

Shortage of civilian personnel in Navy

2312. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Navy is under acute shortage of civilian personnel to man its major projects of Karwar and Ezhimala, totalling 2000 personnel;

(b) whether the Navy has taken up with Government, its demand for enhancement in strength of civilian personnel, to man projects of strategic importance; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The required manpower, including civilian personnel, is sanctioned for all new projects of strategic importance. 2901 posts for the Naval Base Project at Karwar and 1220 posts for the Naval Academy at Ezhimala have been sanctioned by the Government during the last two years. These sanctioned have enhanced the strength of civilian personnel of the Navy by 2634 posts.

Fleet upgradation by IAF

2313. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IAF is on the move to upgrade all its aircrafts over the next five years;

(b) whether it means that there is a dilution of the need for fresh inductions;

(c) the details of aircrafts that IAF is going to upgrade; and

(d) the period which the IAF is going to take to complete its fleet upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Mid-life upgradation of aircraft is undertaken from time to time in order to bridge the gap in technology to make the fleet of aircraft more viable for the next few years and also slow down the phasing out of the aircraft from the service.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Air Force has identified the MIG-29, Mirage-2000 fighter aircraft, AN-32, IL-76 transport aircraft and Mi-17/Mi-17 IV helicopter for upgrade during the 10th and 11th Plan periods.

Talks with American companies selling weapons systems

†2314. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a group of American

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.